

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225509

43

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 L-03 INR-07 NSC-05

CIAE-00 SSO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:JELAKE:KA

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK

EA/P:MSMITH (SUBSTANCE)

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O R 131404Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREPPHIL

CG 13TH AF

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MANILA FOR USDEL, CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:MARR, RP

SUBJECT:PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS REPORT AND
GUIDANCE

1. WALL STREET JOURNAL SEPT 10, 1976, CARRIED A LENGTHY
REPORT ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS (SEE EA PRESS SUMMARY
SEPTEL). WE ARE POUCHING FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE TO EMBASSY.

2. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED IN SEPT 10 DEPARTMENT PRESS
BRIEFING RE THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 225509

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED:

Q: THERE ARE CONTINUING REPORTS OUT OF MANILA WHICH APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT YOU ARE HAVING SOME SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATING BASE RIGHTS THERE. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US OF THOSE TALKS AND THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, AND HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT?

A: NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE USE OF BASES THERE BEGAN ON APRIL 12 WITH AN INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SECRETARY ROMULO IN WASHINGTON. NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED IN MANILA IN JUNE. DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BOTH SIDES HAVE MADE DETAILED PRESENTATIONS OF THEIR POSITIONS ON THE MANY COMPLEX ASPECTS OF OUR USE OF THESE BASES AND BOTH SIDES ARE CONTINUING EXAMINATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE POSITIONS DISCUSSED. WE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR AN EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q: COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE REPORT WHICH APPEARED IN THIS MORNING'S WALL STREET JOURNAL THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS PRESENTED "SEEMINGLY UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS TO THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS"?

A: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF REPORTS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS ORIGINATING IN MANILA. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMPLICATED ISSUES THAT REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED BUT, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON REPORTS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A: TALKS ARE CONTINUING. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE225509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JELAKE:KA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760344-1134
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760966/aaaaceov.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS REPORT AND GUIDANCE
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006